REMARKS

Claims 1 to 28 are pending. Claim 28 is new. No claims are allowed.

1. At the outset, the applicants would like to thank examiners Tammie Heller and Robert Pezzuto for the time they took on July 13, 2006, to discuss the pending claims with their attorney. The substance of the interview is essential as set forth in the Interview Summary.

2. Independent claims 1, 12 and 16 have been amended to call for the body having a sidewall extending to a bottom wall disposed immediately adjacent to the medical device housing and including a connection inlet "provided in the body sidewall extending to the bottom wall at the sidewall." This amended claim language was agreed upon in order to more clearly define the location of the connection inlet.

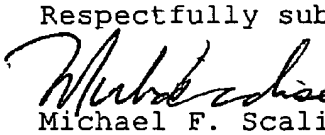
3. During the interview, the examiners raised U.S. Patent No. 5,899,930 to Flynn et al. as a prior art reference that could possibly be used to defeat patentability of the amended claims. However, the amended claim language is believe to overcome Flynn et al. for the reason that the prior art patent has its connection inlets, for example inlet 28, spaced above the bottom wall of the header. This positioning necessitates that Flynn et al.'s header have a conduit 88 through which the feedthrough wire 48 extends to contact the terminal block 40 received in the inlet 28. The problem is that the conduit 88 is another structure in addition to the inlet that must be backfilled with a polymeric material after the connection between the feedthrough wire and the terminal has been made. This runs counter to one of the goals of the present invention, which is to limit the number of

areas that must be backfilled. All backfilled locations are potential electrical current leak paths during device activation.

In contrast, the applicants' claimed header has the terminal blocks, intermediate connectors and the connection between them encased in a monolithic header body that completely eliminates the potential for leak paths anywhere along their lengths except at the connection inlet. This means that the only place where the present header needs to be backfilled is in the very small connection inlet. The presently claimed header assembly minimizes as much as possible the potential for inadvertent electrical leak paths. In other words, the Flynn et al. header is not as robust as that claimed by the applicants's.

It is believed that claims 1 to 28 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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